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COVER: A beautiful space designed by Fresco Interiors that utilizes a monochromatic colour scheme with a twist - Story on page 39.

Photo: Copyright Kira Nelson Photography 2010

The Inside Story

The gloom and cold of winter is upon us and one of the best things we can do to warm our souls is to brighten our interiors. In this issue of Saskatoon Home, we present an array of fresh ideas to cheer up the heart of your home.

Check out our new department, Inside Trends, presenting the hottest (and coolest) updates for your living pleasure. Learn how to "pop" your interior with the latest in

colour or make it relaxing and versatile with a monochromatic scheme.

Read how a designer and builder work together from the inception of a home's creation to create a harmonious dwelling. Join us for the final installment of A Tale of Two Homes, as our two couples enjoy their completed dream dwellings—it took them a lot of blood, sweat and \$\$\$ to get there!

Meet a local stone mason and woodcarver who creates classic, organic home features like fireplaces with a mallet and chisel using local natural materials. Go shopping like a pro with a savvy home organizer for decorative items for each room. Read what our professional panel has to say about the state of interior design in Saskatoon. And there is much more...

I'd like to take a paragraph to thank our regular writers for the fine work they have produced for Saskatoon Home over the last couple of years... writers Karin Melberg Schwier, Gail Jansen, Jeff O'Brien, Rand Zacharias...and especially Darrell Noakes, who has been with us since the inception and also takes fine photographs. We also welcome new contributor Sandra Young to our roster.

Thanks also to graphic designers Stephanie Symons and Mark McCann and our various photographers who make our pages look so spectacular. And a big holiday hug to our publisher Amanda Soulo dre who really cares about her magazine, as well as the people who work for her.

As always, we are grateful to the advertisers who support Saskatoon Home and we encourage you to use their services to make your residence the best it can be. Enjoy your holiday season and keep your spirits warm and cheerful in the cold weather!

*Dona Sturmanis, Editor
Saskatoon Home*



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FRONTLINES

Victory Majors, not Lake Placid to Develop River Landing

The City of Saskatoon announced November 1 that it had received documentation from Victory Majors Investments Corporation indicating it has sufficient financing in place to complete construction of the development of Parcel "Y" at River Landing to grade level including excavation, shoring, footings, foundation, and all levels of the underground parking structure.

The announcement was made nine minutes before the 5 p.m. deadline for receipt of the documentation on Monday, November 1.

The agreement the City of Saskatoon had with Lake Placid Developments was that either Lake Placid Developments or Victory Majors Investments Corporation could assign the project to the other and still continue on with the River Landing development agreement with the City. Victory Majors Investments Corporation presented the City with documentation indicating it has obtained the River Landing Parcel "Y"

project from Lake Placid Developments.

The City will now proceed to evaluate the documentation to determine whether it is satisfactory. If the City does consider it satisfactory, then Victory Majors Investments Corporation will have 15 business days to pay the purchase price of the land of \$5,240,494 (less the deposit of \$250,000 that was submitted in June). Once payment is received, the City will transfer title of the land to Victory Majors Investments Corporation. If the City does not find the financing documentation to be satisfactory, then the

agreement with Victory Majors Investments Corporation is null and void.

In June, City Council approved the sale of Parcel "Y" and the adjacent lane for \$5,240,494 less the deposit. The Memorandum of Sale between the City and Lake Placid Developments required Lake Placid to provide a \$250,000 deposit, which it did in June. Lake Placid also needed to provide satisfactory documentation by November 1 that it had sufficient financing to complete construction of the development to grade level.

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Canada's First Net Zero Home Exhibit Opens in Saskatoon

A new year-long green home exhibit, the VerEco Home, opened October 26 at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon. The 1220 square foot Net Zero Energy home is able to produce as much energy as it consumes.

Designed by local experts for Saskatchewan's climate, The VerEco Home is modeled to reduce green house gas emissions by 33 tones each year, and save \$4,000 per year in energy costs, compared to a home built to minimum construction standards.

Ronn LePage, President of VerEco Homes, said "The VerEco Home Exhibit allows us to bring thousands of people to a living exhibit demonstrating viable economical and ecological housing."

A total of 25 local partners contributed to the exhibit. SaskPower provided a \$100,000 sponsorship to raise aware-

ness of new energy efficient technologies that can help people reduce their household electricity consumption.

Features include photovoltaic solar panels, grey water recycling, passive solar design, LED lighting and a super-insulated building envelope.

"The City of Saskatoon is very excited to be involved with this unique demonstration home," Mayor Don Atchison said. "It's a great opportunity for all of us to see and learn more about energy and water efficiencies we can incorporate into our own homes, and discover what is possible if we dream big."

"The Western Development Museum's long-term strategic plan includes the goal of reducing the Museum's energy footprint, and of becoming a community showcase of energy conservation and alternate technologies. The Museum is delighted with this partnership, and the opportunity to work with local experienced businesses in pursuit of this goal," says David Klatt, the WDM's executive director.

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Building a Place for you to call Home

Province Invests \$100,000 in Saskatoon Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing Project

Two Habitat for Humanity partner families will soon realize their dream of homeownership, thanks to an investment of \$100,000 from the province through Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC).

The duplex will be constructed by Mount Royal Collegiate students in the High School Carpentry Apprentice Program (HCAP), which is run in partnership with the Saskatoon Public School Division. The HCAP gives students the opportunity to bank hours toward a Journeyman's status in the carpentry trade. Upon completion, a Habitat for Humanity partner family will live in each unit.

"Our government strongly believes that Saskatchewan people deserve a home to call their own, where they can work hard, build dreams, raise their families and take advantage of the unlimited opportunities that this province offers," Saskatoon Sutherland MLA Joceline Schriemer said on behalf of social services minister and minister responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation June Draude. "On behalf of the province, I would like to thank Habitat for Humanity and students at Mount Royal Collegiate for putting affordable homeownership within reach for two more Saskatchewan families."

"Habitat Saskatoon is pleased to partner with the Government of Saskatchewan to provide homes for low-income working families in Saskatoon," Habitat for Humanity Saskatoon executive director Barb Cox-Lloyd said. "This build is particularly exciting as it is the fifth year that we have collaborated with Mount Royal Collegiate HCAP to build homes and provide a unique educational experience for Saskatoon High School students."

The funding is part of the \$1 million investment announced by the province on April 1 to help Habitat for Humanity's Saskatchewan affiliates provide 20 homes for lower-income Saskatchewan families that have housing needs. This funding is on top of the \$1 million announced by the province in March 2009.

Each selected Habitat partner family contributes 500 partnering hours to build their home and other Habitat for Humanity homes. This assists in the development of the Habitat for Humanity community and their neighbourhoods.

The project is scheduled to be completed in February 2011.

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Greenbryre Golf and Country Club to Develop Residential Estates

Greenbryre Golf and Country Club plans to develop 143 half-acre lots at the southeastern outskirts of Saskatoon, reducing the golf course from 18 holes to nine to make room for the development.

The first phase of the project will start in 2011, just south of the current golf course. Lots are expected to sell for about \$250,000 each.

SASKATOON STAR-PHOENIX

Builders Picked up Pace in September

Saskatchewan home builders increased urban housing starts in September, according to a report released by CMHC.

Urban housing starts in the province were up 38 per cent in September 2010 to 385 units compared to 278 units last year. Saskatchewan ranked second among the provinces. In the first nine months of 2010, housing starts were up

68 per cent when compared with the same period in 2009, the third highest percentage increase in the nation.

In August, urban housing starts in Saskatchewan increased by 32 per cent, compared to August 2009. Saskatchewan ranked third among the provinces in terms of percentage change.

"Our strong economy has played a significant factor in the demand for new housing," enterprise minister and minister responsible for trade Jeremy Harrison said. "The rising population, stronger commodity prices and positive labour market conditions are all contributing to a robust construction industry."

"Saskatchewan's sustained growth in housing construction activity is a good indicator of our economic tempo," Harrison said. "Along with our increasing population and strong employment numbers, this helps make the case that Saskatchewan is one of the most popular places across Canada to make a living and have a home."

New home building in the Regina area increased by 68 per cent in September of this year over September 2009. Saskatoon had an increase of 45 per cent over the same time period.

Construction starts on single family dwellings in August 2010 were up by 44

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per cent, while multiple units were up by 22 per cent, compared to August 2009.

In the first nine months of 2010, housing starts were up 39 per cent in Regina and 125 per cent in Saskatoon when compared to the first nine months of 2009.

GOVERNMENT OF
SASKATCHEWAN

October Real Estate Sales Maintained Softening Trend

The Saskatoon Region Association of Realtors said that October real estate sales declined 15 per cent in October. In a news release, the association reported that 262 properties were sold during the month, compared to 309 in October 2009. However, the average selling price rose seven per cent to \$293,929.00. Year to date sales fell eight per cent to 3,088 homes sold, compared to 3,356 in 2009.

For the first time in a while, in October the \$250,000 to \$275,000 entry-level price range experienced the greatest sales activity. Year to date, the \$300,000 to \$350,000 range still has dominant sales activity.

Real estate agents listed 455 homes in October, up three per cent from October 2009. Year to date listings are up three per cent, to 6,081. Consumers had 1,219 homes to select from at the end of October.

Sales activity in the smaller communities around Saskatoon, including Martensville, Warman and Dundurn, remained steady. The 77 units sold were down 14 per cent from October 2009 when 90 units sold. The average selling price was down three per cent, to \$243,353. The year to date average selling price in these areas rose one per cent, to \$255,409. Listings dropped four per cent, to 190 properties on the market.

The association said that sales activity is expected to remain steady for the remainder of the year. Interest rates remain attractive and job creation continues at a reasonable pace. Existing home sales may continue to soften slightly given steady growth in the new home sector which impacts existing home sales and averages.

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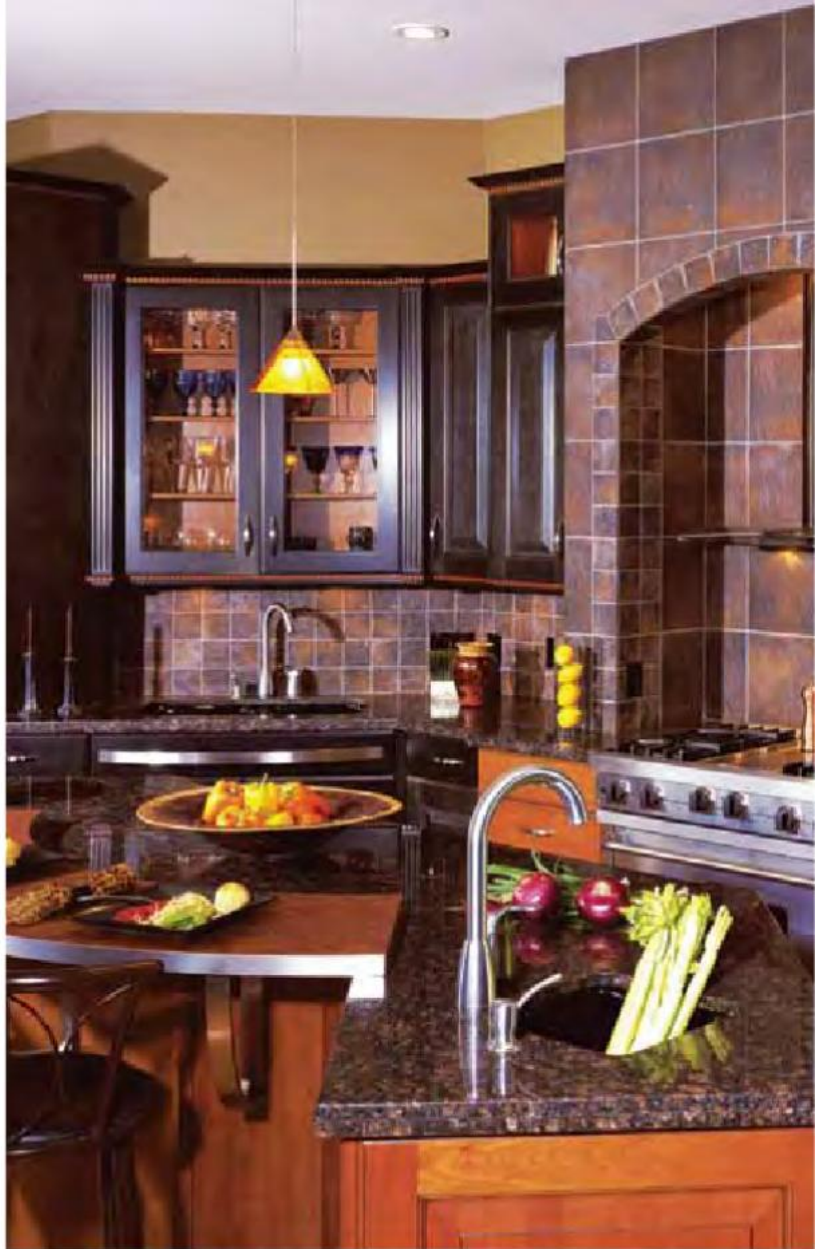
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Perfect for any high traffic areas, and for bathrooms or kitchens where humidity can cause natural wood products to move or shift, wood porcelain comes in a variety of colours and grains, and gives homeowners a choice when it comes to their flooring.

The cutting edge of new flooring design, wood porcelain tile has only one thing lacking—the warmth of a natural wood. But have no fear, it's something that can easily be added, says Tracey Reece of Centennial Plumbing, Saskatchewan's exclusive Stone Tile International dealer. Simply by installing an in-floor heat mat underneath a wood porcelain or any new tile floor, you can turn a frosty cold Saskatchewan morning into a toasty warm treat for your toes.

Photo: Courtesy Centennial Plumbing

Wood porcelain gives a bathroom the look of hardwood with the benefits of tile.



Photo: Courtesy Wetstyle

Freestanding tubs from Wetstyle's "Be" and "Ove" Collections combine contemporary designs with organic shapes.

Wetstyles Tubs: *Bathroom Wow*

Contemporary, original, award-winning designs – that's what you get when you look to the Wetstyles collection of free-standing polymer soaker tubs, carried exclusively in Saskatoon by Centennial Plumbing.

A Canadian-made product from Montreal, these individually hand-crafted tubs, made with eco-friendly natural stone composite, each have strength, durability, slip-resistance and natural thermo-insulation built into each one, regardless of which of their 11 different designs you choose.

Whether you look to the angular lines of the BC Collection, the cocoon-like feel of the OVE Collection, or the nature-inspired designs of the BE Collection, it's the details that make these tubs not only a focal point for any bathroom, but also so mesmerizing in their appeal. With a Wetstyles tub waiting in your bathroom to foster an experience of rest and relaxation, you'll be inspired to take a bath.



Photo: Courtesy Wetstyle

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Shattered Glass is comprised of two layers of cracked glass with a single layer of solid glass in between. AJ Itterman at Mirage Woodworks, the exclusive Saskatoon dealer for this Canadian-made product, says it adds a very eye-catching and unique two-dimensional highlight to any kitchen, bathroom, or rec-room bar top.

With a natural sparkle created by the criss-cross pattern formed through the shattering process, the product also has a natural greenish hue, which can be changed simply by placing other colours or backdrops beneath it. This is a decorating plus that allows homeowners to change up the look of a piece in an instant.

Sealed, stain-resistant, heat-resistant, and as strong as any other natural stone product, Shattered Glass will definitely give visitors to your home something to focus on.



Photo: Courtesy Silastial Glass Works Inc.

Inspired by art and designed for function, Shattered Glass adds a "wow" factor to any kitchen or bath.

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PROFILE

Set in Stone English Visit Inspired Brian's Timeless Craft

Stone mason and wood carver Brian Cey works with materials native to Saskatchewan. The artist's hand-crafted, organic creations, such as stone fireplaces, entrance markers, address plaques and traditional joinery wooden benches and tables are timeless touches to grace any home.

Saskatchewan-born Brian trained at one of Europe's foremost colleges of stone masonry—the City of Bath College in England. For him, it's all about creating a physical legacy that will last for generations.

It was a 2001 work-honey-moon stint with his wife Lindsay in eastern England that inspired his calling.

"The honeymoon led us to vow for a return—which we managed by 2005. The neo-classical architecture left us in awe. The buildings standing strong after 300 years brought me to the final decision to pursue the craft through the college at Bath and with a great deal of persistence, I pestered a local business there into helping me to apprentice."

During the course of his education, he was trained in carving wood and stone for fireplaces, mantles, memorials, monuments, medieval furnishings, cabinetry and yes, even sundials.



Brian took two laborious years to earn his diploma of architectural stone carving.

Only a few persist and attain the diploma of stone mason. The ancient art can take up to 300 hours—even for a small project—and mallet and chisel must be moving for work to be performed. A season of solitude is the stone-mason's workstation.

"Growing up on the farm and ridding fields of rocks was my first introduction to stone," states Brian, who recently revisited England with his wife.

At City of Bath College, Brian pushed himself, accelerated courses and two years later—a diploma of architectural stone carving was his. The wood working portion of his studies began alongside the stone carving and was taught to him by a priest and Benedictine monk named Father Michael living in a local monastery at Stratton-



This exquisitely chiseled "green man" was inspired by a 150-year-old English church carving.

on-the-Fosse (Downside Abbey). Helping this holy man on a schedule of two outings a week over the course of two and a half years allowed Brian to merge the crafts.

"I still use Father Michael as a unique resource database," Cey said while he and his wife were visiting friends in Somers-

set. "On many of my projects people enjoy a choice phrase in Latin—and he is always willing to provide an appropriate ancient quote. On my website (www.malletandchisel.ca) you will see the small bench with an inscription EGO SUM LUX which means I am the Light—a quote from the New Testament. It seems to add another dimension for many of my clients."

With medieval hand-carved inscriptions and hand-cut dove-tailed joinery, these contracted creations are detailed and durable.

For his projects, Brian uses locally-felled trees and recycled timber whenever possible. "Maple or birch is good to work with," he states. "Carigana for pins works well for joinery."

Brian uses natural stone for ecological reasons. "Manufactured stone is cement and burning a ton of carbon to create cement to replicate a rock just doesn't work for me."

Sustainability clearly plays a large part in Brian's chosen trades, when one views the archaic mallets and chisels, partnered with the use of natural materials. These may not be considered power tools in our modern world but elbow grease and artistic skill are generating powerful, eclectic results and saving the planet at the same time.

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- DONA STURMANIS





Photo: Craig Leontowicz

While a striking kitchen is a favorite space for many, large master bedrooms and luxurious spa inspired bathrooms are also topping the charts for a number of Saskatoon home owners. This photo is from the story "Bold Builder and Designer" found on page 35.

A lot of people favour their kitchens because they love to cook and it is often one of the main spaces in the home where family and friends congregate. Of course, it also helps when the appliances, counter tops and cabinetry are attractive and state-of-the-art. Islands or counters with seating, for chatting and snacking make congregating here very enjoyable while meals are being prepared.

Other folks like their living rooms or entertainment rooms as they are becoming known. It is often here where art adorns the walls and there is a television (ideally a large flat-screen model). Frequently, there is a fireplace—real or otherwise. It is here where people gather to relax, chat, or catch the latest movie. What really makes a living room an appealing space is very comfortable seating, effective decorative lighting, and interesting characteristics such as high ceilings, windows with views and a feeling of spaciousness.

Bedrooms are becoming favourite places because of how they are evolving. Many are becoming larger than ever before. Besides containing huge, comfortable beds and luxurious bedding, they often have lounging furniture, walk-in closet/dressing rooms and ensuite bathrooms that resemble spas. Who wouldn't want to spend plenty of time in an ensuite that contains a jacuzzi, soaker tub, or a infrared sauna and a salon-quality vanity?

More and more people like spending time in their home offices, not just because they sometimes work there, but because this is often where the computer is. Who doesn't spend at least a couple of hours a day on the Internet, Facebooking, Tweeting or shopping on E-bay? Here people will often shelve their

favourite books, hang some attractive pieces of art or photos, fill some shelves with interesting pottery and verdant indoor plants. Of course, it helps to have a well-organized desk, good lighting and a very comfortable, ergonomically-correct chair in which to sit.

In the warmer weather, outdoor living rooms are becoming popular. Whether they are glass-enclosed or simply under cover, they can now contain furniture as comfortable and stylish as what would be inside. Complete, sophisticated kitchens, including cook tops, refrigerators and bell-and-whistle barbecues can be installed.

And then there are decorative features such as fire pits and water features. There are libraries, rec rooms, hobby rooms, home gyms, garages, coffee nooks....

Not every room has to be used for its intended purpose, either. Some people like to put their offices into their living rooms, for example.

There are also those favourite corners where folks just like to...be. The rocking chair in the plant room, which is ideal for handiwork and looking out the window. The bench in the mud room to relax for a few minutes after taking off the outerwear and boots. The window seat which is ideal for reading a good book.

Wherever people like to be in their dwellings, the important thing is that they decorate it to suit their personal tastes and lifestyles. After all, home is where most of us spend most of our lives.



A Tale of Two Homes III

The Dreams Become Reality After Building Mode, the Ideal Abodes

Part Three of a Three-Part Series

The drywall dust has settled, and moving day has come and gone for both of our Tale of Two Home couples who both loved the lure of an older neighbourhood and looked for a way to satisfy their desire to live in one, while still enjoying the benefits of a custom-built home. For Nina and Greg Moe, the decision was made to gut and renovate an established home from the inside out, while Darla Tenold and Fahmy Behkit chose instead to build fresh right from the ground up.

In this, our final installation of A Tale of Two Homes, we'll get a glimpse of their finished homes; see some of the special custom features each have chosen to reflect their own personal styles; and see, from their point of view, what it is that makes a house a home.

- GAIL JANSEN



Nina and Greg Moe:

Lots of Space and Special Touches

Photos: Jessica Storozuk

Taking on this substantial home renovation allowed the Moes the opportunity create an open floor plan that was accommodating to their lifestyle. Flower provided by Bill's House of Flowers.

Learning the Flow

With Greg and Nina Moe now firmly ensconced in their newly renovated home, all that's left are a few tweaks and the adjustment period of learning to fit the rhythm of their lifestyle into their new space. Something they're finding increasingly easier to do as time goes by.

"Sometimes, you think you want something one way," says Nina. "But until you get right into a place and live in it, you don't realize that it doesn't quite work the way you expected, so you have to change things up a little bit to fit with your flow."

The Big Features

What has worked for the Moes are the major structural changes they made to the house in order to give themselves the kind of open floor plan they desired. This ranged from the elimination of all the load-bearing walls on the main floor, which were replaced with steel I-Beams to give support to the upper floor, to the restructuring of the upstairs bedroom layout to give them the haven they were looking for.

"We wanted an open concept in the main living space," explains Nina. "We like to entertain a lot, so if we have a lot of people over,

or if there's a big game going on and I'm working in the kitchen, I can still be involved in the conversation, and that's a nice change were finding is working very well for us."

Another change that's working out well for them can be found on the home's second floor, where three of the four bedrooms were combined into one large master suite which holds a large walk-through closet, a spacious en suite bathroom. There is also a sitting area, complete with large screen TV and fireplace, where the couple can unwind before heading to bed. The old master bedroom remains untouched, save for a few updates, to act as the couple's guest room.

"It's very private and very quiet," says Nina of her new bedroom. "We just love it."

"While I realize it's not the layout most people would choose," she adds, "it's a very nice relaxing space, that's just perfect for us."

The Little Touches

Beyond the structural changes to the home, Nina and Greg worked together on a plan to include a host of added features and special touches that would work to make life just a little less complicated.



Left - Nina and Greg Moe stand in their kitchen (below) featuring a modern set-up and state of the art appliances from Kitchenz Etc.

This includes the fully-functional home gym that takes up the majority of their basement, to the large aesthetically-pleasing laundry room that takes the drudgery out of a regular household chore.

For Nina, though, some of the best features of her new home can be found right in the kitchen.

"I love to cook," says Nina. "So I wanted some very nice appliances that were also energy-efficient. We put in a nice induction cook top, a steam oven which lets us cook in a really healthy way, a regular dishwasher for when we have guests and a little rollout dishwasher that's just the perfect size for the day-to-day dishes that Greg and I use."

Another great feature, says Nina, lies just under the granite countertop they installed on their large island and breakfast bar, in the form of a heated mat, that allows them to control the temperature of the countertop. "We really love it," laughs Nina. "But I think our guests love it even more."

Still, if one were to narrow down all of the homes amenities into one key focal point, both Nina and Greg agree it would have to be their custom-designed Tyndal Stone fireplace mantel made by local stone mason Brian Cey, who hand-finished the piece in such as way as to allow the fossils that lie within it to be seen.

"We actually had to reinforce the floor in the area because it's so heavy that if it sat on a normal floor it would just break through," says Nina. "But it's so beautiful and there's not another one like it anywhere."

A Happy Ending

Even though it's only been a couple of months since they've moved in, and they're pretty sure the novelty will one day wear off, for now Nina and Greg say that pretty much every day at some point or other, whether they're in the kitchen having their morning coffee, or just hanging out by the fireplace, they'll often stop and just marvel at the amazing home they created together.

"We're just so pleased with how it turned out. It's a beautiful home, and we're very pleased with the end result."



The Moe's replaced all the electrical wiring and plumbing in the home to accommodate the latest technologies.

Darla Tenold and Fahmy Bekhit:

Room to Move with Elegant Additions



Learning the Flow

Moving in five weeks ahead of their proposed November move date, Darla Tenold and Fahmy Bekhit are thrilled with the spaciousness that greets them each time they walk into their new home.

"Whether we're unloading the dishwasher or are both in the kitchen cooking supper together, we don't run into each other anymore like we used to," says Darla.

"It's just so easy to live here with all the space, and the way things are set up in the kitchen, everything is just so easy to get to."

This spaciousness was formulated in the design process they worked on with their builder.

"Right from the beginning, when we sat down with Cathy [Edwards] from Sanoma Homes, this is the kind of space we wanted," explains Fahmy. "And now that we're using it, we really appreciate both the space and the design."

The Big Features

It's a spaciousness that can be felt the minute you walk in the door, whether it's the front grand entry way with its nine-foot ceilings, or the modern twist on the once popular mud room that greets them when they walk in the through the back.

"Not many of the new houses we looked at had a mud room," says Darla. "Most opened up right into the kitchen or dining room, and we find we're really enjoying being able to come into the house to a space where we can sit down and take our shoes off."

Above - A coffered ceiling and wide curved archway elegantly connect the livingroom and kitchen.

Below - Darla and Fahmy are seen here making themselves at home.



Continuing on throughout the main floor, the spaciousness of the living room is only slightly separated from the kitchen by a curved archway, and from the dining room by a coffered ceiling. Upstairs that feeling continues with vaulted ceilings in the master bedroom, and a large master en suite complete with an enormous soaker tub that gives the room a spa-like feel, without ever overpowering it. A room, that for Darla was an extremely high priority, and required them to be extra efficient when planning the rest of their second floor. "We have three bedrooms upstairs, a guest bathroom and a laundry room,

"says Fahmy. "There is no unused space upstairs and yet at the same time we didn't sacrifice any of the spacious feel."

And while their basement has yet to be fully developed, it has already been fully roughed out for plumbing and electrical, as well as fully dry-walled and mudded, something both Darla and Fahmy say will not only cut down on the mess when they move forward to finish the basement, but also makes the chances that it will get done that much more of a likelihood.

The Little Touches

When deciding on the type of extras they would add to their home, Darla and Fahmy looked to items they felt would add to its overall elegance.

These range from the large 7'x 5' quartz-covered island that covers one half of the galley kitchen, to the solid wood kitchen cabinets that line the other half, and the garden doors that lead from Darla's office/bedroom out onto a second floor balcony.

Even in the case of the small fully-trimmed hole in the dining room wall that allows their cat access to the basement, and the built-in media closet located at the back of their living room that houses all of their electronic equipment, elegance remained at the forefront of their minds.

For the cat entry, it was a way of ensuring that the beautiful French door they had chosen for their basement could remain closed, and for the media closet, it was a way of keeping their TV area, neat and uncluttered.

A Happy Ending

With the building process now behind them, and a beautiful new house before them, the time has come for Darla and Fahmy to settle in and turn their elegant house into a home. A process Darla says is already well underway.

"I noticed it for the first time last night, after cleaning up after supper. It was all so easy, and I just thought to myself, 'I'm really glad that we're here.'"

"Our whole family is coming at Christmas," adds Darla. "And that's something I think will help to make it feel even more like our home."

"I wake up in the mornings and it still feels like I'm waking up in a hotel," says Fahmy. "But once we start making dents in the wall, and scratch up the hardwood, then it will truly become my house."



Visit www.saskatoon-home.ca/extras.htm

- Read all 3 parts of this story online.
- To see more exclusive photos.



The galley kitchen has an elegant feel created by the ambiance set off by the lighting.

Advice from the Experts

To really get the home that you want, you have to know what you want, and know where you're willing to compromise. So what should you hold on to and what should you abandon? Cathy Edwards of Sanoma Homes gives us a little insight. "When a homeowner gives us a wish list and they're investing the money in building a new home," says Edwards, "there are certain things that only make sense to do, at the time that you are building."

Kitchen Cabinetry – not something homeowners are going to change on a frequent basis, so for things like cabinetry, if you have your heart set on a particular design or style, spend the money.

Hardwood Floors – people generally can replace carpeting after a number of years, so this would be a good area that is an easy renovation for a flooring company to come in and manage for you to change out carpet to hardwood.

Exterior Finishing – to make your home easy on the eyes and the pocket book, there are many ways to compromise. Doing a combination of vinyl siding as the main finishing, and a more expensive trimming package elevates the character of the home, and still gives it a detailed look.

"You need to decide what features are going to bring true value-added quality to your bottom line and what items are purely a matter of personal preference," says Edwards.

"So if you had to turn around and sell your home, which is your biggest asset, you'd want to be sure that you've gotten good value for the dollars that you spent, and that you'll recoup all of that, if not more."

PROFESSIONAL PANEL

VIEW FROM THE INSIDE:

THREE EXPERTS DISH ON WHAT'S TRENDING NOW IN SASKATOON INTERIORS

How are Saskatonians defining the interiors of their homes as we move into 2011? Well, the designers know, because they are in personal contact with their clients and know their tastes and preferences. Saskatoon Home decided to ask three of the city's interior designers for their takes on the inside looks currently favoured by home owners. What did we find? Well, for starters, neutrals are very popular and media and travel are huge influences. And while the kitchen is still the most popular room in the home to make over, there is a new one becoming a favourite. Our designing trio also shared their favourite inside tips....



Participants



Tamara Bowman, upon concluding her interior design education in 1998, launched her business Designer Homes, which has now evolved into a full-design studio known as Metric Design Studio. She has had the tremendous opportunity to share her creativity in a diverse career consisting of commercial and residential design through renovations, home building and new-home custom design. "I have embraced the learning process by trying to absorb as much information as possible in many areas including building and finishing materials, creative and innovative product sourcing, paint and window treatments, project management and customer service."



David Chu is a graduate of the interior design program from Ryerson University in Toronto, and has been practicing his profession since the mid 90s. "Having a full-time job with a design-build company while attending university studying interior design was the best experience that a student could ever ask for." His most memorable design-built projects are CTV Sportsnet, TSN Sports Central, and an indoor children's amusement park in Dubai. He moved back to Saskatoon in 2004 to work with Friggstad Downing Henry Architects. "I have been very fortunate to be part of a great design team working side by side with architects, technologists and specification writers on large-scaled institutional projects such as university academic buildings, high schools and multi-use facilities in the city as well as around the province of Saskatchewan."



Curtis Elmy (pictured), along with **Trevor Ciona**, BID, are owners of Atmosphere Interior Design Inc., a residential and commercial design firm in Saskatoon. Started in 2004, the firm offers complete interior design services, a unique blend of classical, contemporary and traditional styles for residential and commercial Saskatchewan interiors. Many award-winning and other interiors have been published in trade publications. Atmosphere's design studio also features a large collection of designer exclusive fabrics and wallpapers for the retail customer by appointment.

1. What is your favorite concept in interior residential design and decor right now?

Bowman: Lighting. With the combination of strategic planning and exceptional lighting, you can completely allow any space to come to life and most importantly become interesting!! There are so many possibilities: floor lighting, sconces and pots that draw interest from the wall, back lighting and illuminating objects, personalized pendants, sparkling chandeliers...the options are truly endless.

Chu: Minimalism is still one of my favorite concepts to design with. It is not how much you can cram into the space to make it feel like a space, rather the opposite. Using a minimum number of items to create the same result will give you the satisfaction of a job well done and knowing that you can do more with less. That being said, I don't limit my clients to this concept; rather, I encourage them to explore and find their own style and concept through a process I call brainstorming and ideation.

Elmy: We tend to focus on the use of very modern designs mixed with more traditional elements, whether in details, furnishings, textiles or decor. We have always thought this way, but have been taking more risks and really going for more impact. Modern furniture is readily available and with so many retailers carrying the same lines and styles-it makes sense to mix it up to create more of a custom look. Seeing traditional

furniture upholstered in a contemporary fabric or vice versa is great way to update a room without completely starting from scratch. Currently our city does not have an abundance of great flea markets and vintage finds at arm's length, so you just have to work a bit harder to achieve this look!

2. What are some of the interior looks, styles or trends that are popular with your Saskatoon clients?

Bowman: Clients today seem to enjoy colour in moderate proportions, so the overall trend is to select multiple neutral tones and then use splashes of colour to highlight and draw emphasis to featured areas. The "greyed-out" colour palette is extremely popular, as it allows for a soft, impartial backdrop with the ability to accent warm tones in wood, fabrics and opposing paint colours.

Chu: There is an environmental design trend happening in and around Saskatoon. Home owners are taking the advantages of the government subsidies to renovate their dwellings to be more energy and water-efficient homes. They are reducing environmental impact by choosing earth-friendly products with recycled materials, products with no VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and rapidly renewable resources such as bamboo.

Elmy: We have always found our clients in Saskatoon to be very contemporary – so it is not surprising to us that many

are all over the trend of everything grey with whites and hits of black. If you pay attention to what people wear, this will be a good indication of what their home may look like. Colour has never been something we have ventured into all that much, and not only because we like it more neutral, but truthfully because many of our clients are cautious of the colour commitment. The fear of tiring of something is forefront in our clients' minds, especially with so much in design and renovations being attached to a large price tag. Don't underestimate the difficulty of pulling off a great neutral design – it is a timeless look that when done well is an art form.

3. What are the influences for today's popular interior trends and where do they come from?

Bowman: I find that interior design follows the trends set in the fashion world in many ways. The emphasis right now is very eclectic, somewhat vintage, with worldly influences in the details. We see it in tufting, buttons, gilding, crystals, damask, and bold colours in furniture and accessories. Mostly I can see that Saskatonians collect their influences through useful tools such as decorating magazines and HGTV.

Chu: The influences are all around us: Internet, television, magazines, trade shows, and product shows. Also, through travel, a person is able to pick up ideas and add their influences into their space.



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Elmy: Design magazines have always provided huge inspiration, and the diverse number of publications now are polished, eye-catching and full of great ideas for the do-it-yourselfers. Television has also grown in popularity, with designers becoming so-called celebrities. This “celebrity” power allows for a more prominent showcase and high production values where larger audiences can easily become interactive via social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and blogging. Another strong influence for clients has come from travel. Travel destinations feature over-the-top and culturally-different interior design that leaves a significant impression on you.

4. What is the one room in a home that you feel is the most important room to make over and why?

Bowman: The kitchen is a fantastic focus if you are looking at redesigning anything in your home. There is some sort of strange “gravitational pull” to this area of the house, making kitchens the natural anchor point of any home. Due to this phenomenon, the kitchen is worth the money that it costs for upgrading both for enjoyment and re-sale. When looking at remodeling this room, you need to consider a large number of details, but so much gratification can come along with a good functioning kitchen!

Chu: The kitchen and bathroom have the highest traffic in the home, therefore

these two spaces would be priority one on the renovation list. Once these two spaces are complete, then the rest of the home would follow.

Elmy: Our requests from clients do vary but kitchens are huge obstacles and the most expensive room to venture into. To many, the kitchen is the heart of the home-families tend to live in this space and due to its huge functional importance, can make or break an entire home. Kitchens also have many design options when it comes to layout and finish selections, which make the entire process very overwhelming. The master bedroom also holds huge importance. Everyone ends and begins their day in this space – so it should be important to you as to how it looks, feels and functions. For a family, this space can serve as a retreat for the parents, an area clear of toys, homework, bills and reminders of how busy life can be. Make it five-star, with a statement headboard, luxurious linens, moody tones of paint or wallpaper and multiple levels of lighting for reading and lounging. As much as a vacation clears your mind and soothes your soul, the master bedroom should do exactly the same thing.

5. It's said that it's all in the details. What do you feel are some of the most important details in a home that help define well-thought interior design?

Bowman: It's so true the details are what count! To me the details are about my

clients. It's about finding the ones that make every person unique and drawing from these individual elements to build something so tailored that it expresses their personality.

Chu: Interior designers design with function in mind. A well-thought interior design would involve research into the functions of a home, how it will be used, will it be a party place, will it be a warm and cozy place, will it be a family place. These are some of the questions that should be asked before designing. If in-depth client research is done in the preliminary design stages, the finished product will be successful.

Elmy: We value the impact moldings and trim can make in a home – these details add the level of customization that really makes a statement. All well-designed rooms are best thought out right down to the decoration; a space never truly comes alive until it is decorated. This is often underestimated by clients and even though the renovation has taken its toll both financially and emotionally, you have to cross the finish line. Details like art, window treatments and décor are just as important as the furnishings – they should be impressive and thoughtfully selected, and not just something you have around to fill the space.

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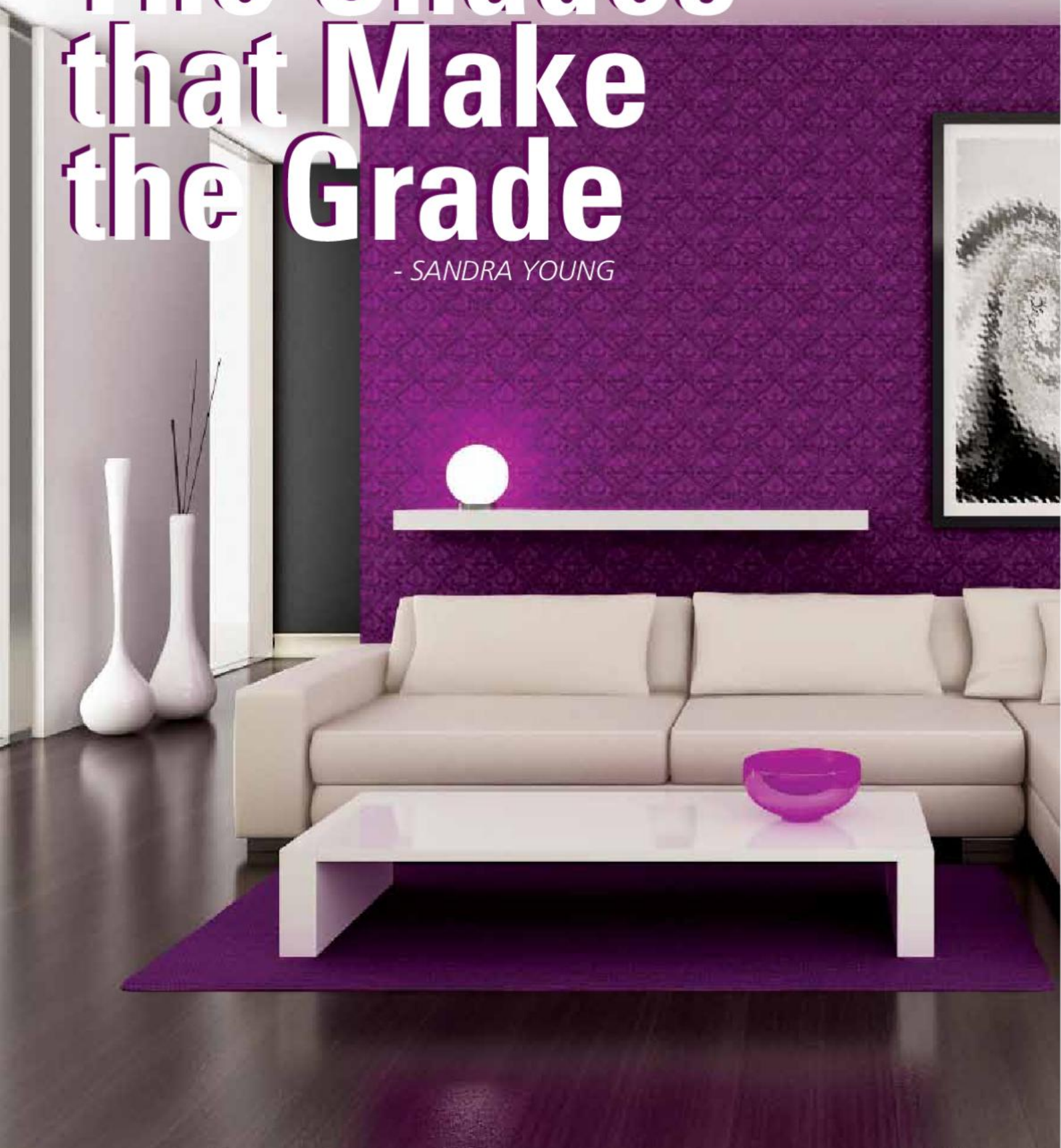
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The Shades that Make the Grade

- SANDRA YOUNG





Haven't you always wanted to be the person who came up with the names for lipstick or nail polish? As I indulge in a manicure and pedicure, it allows time to reflect on the magnificent world of color forecasting. Who decides which colors will be hot on the horizon, and which tones will color our homes, our wardrobes, our cars, our lips and our toes?

Prophets of New Hues

Ken Zurowski, from Saskatoon Eastside Paint and Wallpaper, relies on professional, global forecasting committees to advise his company on what's hot and what's not.

The Color Marketing Group consists of 13 people, with another five on the executive committee. Executive board member Patricia Call explains, "The process involved in forecasting trends is Research, with a capital R. That means, draw on history and the current world around you. Know your background information historically, so that you can recognize the new and distinguish it from the old."

The members' backgrounds are rooted in home fashion, interior design, marketing, color analysts, color production, etc. In order to forecast accurate upcoming colors, they teleconference monthly, and meet twice a year at international conferences.

Michelle Lamb is the editorial director of The Trend Curve in Minnesota, U.S.A. Her company studies influential factors like our aging population, recession, economic recovery and consumer psychology to assess color and design trends. She travels to New York, Paris, Frankfurt and London, studying design and retail trends on the street and at various trade shows and markets.

With her innovative team, she forecasts colors for home furnishings and products. She has also selected colors for medical equipment, tools, photo albums and even post-it notes for companies all over the world.

She muses, "Categories of fashion and home are moving in lockstep," influencing one another in a predictable rhythm. Each home color trend cycle lasts quite precisely, three years, according to revered trend forecaster Michelle Lamb.

Why These Choices?

Benjamin Moore Paints also tracks recent social, cultural and political conditions to assess how they impact design trends. From their thorough analysis, they deem "Balance" to be the central trend for 2011. Offshoots from this theme are three distinct style movements – Spirited, Soulful and Dreamy.

The Spirited style movement means colors that will make you happy. This antidote to stress can be achieved with upbeat tones like Grape Green or Royal Flush.



Soulful style, according to Benjamin Moore, refers to global balance being achieved through communication technology, shrinking the miles between us. They recommend Vintage Wine, Wasabi, or Etruscan colors to for ethnic glamour.

Dreamy design refers to softened textures, transparent effects, and blurred decorative details. Pale, frosted and opalescent hues like Benjamin Moore's Gray Mirage, Porcelain and Etiquette quiet the mind and soothe the soul.

What's happening now worldwide affects the consumer's reaction to color. As a recession reaction, "people select colors that make them feel good," says Michelle Lamb from The Trend Curve. They are more likely to entertain friends and family at home and are more sensitive to color and their surroundings than ever before.

Michelle believes that earlier ethnic design trends and colors prior to September 11, 2001 faded from the design scene. Consumers could no longer differentiate between exotic or threatening.

A more diluted, eclectic approach to design is on the horizon. Zen, minimalistic Asian style and neutral hues remain a standard decorating template, reassuring consumers of peaceful surroundings.

However, touches of colorful, global ethnicity enter stage left in bursts of renewed confidence. Consumers feel safe investing in pillows or accent pieces to try out the new color trends against a neutral background.

Neutral News

Michelle names her top 20 neutrals "chameleon colors" and describes them as "ethereal to anchoring."

"They are more complicated based on the company they keep and the light around them," she says.

Shades of purple will be underlying grey tones, and greens will be obvious in brown palettes. We will see complex grays, browns,

greens and yellows in four values. Pastel, light, mid-tone and deep will layer in together to form sophisticated, mostly neutral and flexible color schemes. As starting color foundations, they can compliment a multitude of unique and personalized decorating schemes.

Benjamin Moore professional Ken Zurowski recommends Smoke as a subtle blue-grey as a fantastic backdrop for a spa-style, relaxing current color scheme. "The taupes are sliding more to the grey side," Ken candidly comments. "Years ago it was a narrow palette where twenty percent of colors made up eighty percent of sales. Now the blinders are off." Ken attributes the new color attitude to heightened technology and the influence of Home and Garden Television.

He has noticed specific metallic and stencil trends have been fueled by television episodes. Color-blocking the home utilizing three or more tones is a popular decorating approach.

Professional designers are skilled at selecting specific neutrals to compliment every home and lighting situation.

Saskatoon's Eastside Paint and Wallpaper employs two color consultants who will assist with paint choices in the home. Testers are available in two sizes, or sizable sample boards can be purchased to try out your favorite colors.

More Shades to Seek After

Purple will be prevalent in our color future, exploring its blue side in 2011, and its redder characteristics in 2012. Michelle Lamb calls her favorite red Elizabethan Red, which is evocative of a Bordeaux.

Fuchsia will remain strong, and coral will be fashionably essential. Michelle recommends selecting a pinky, red or burnt coral, "but for heaven sakes, pick one!"

Patricia Call, from the Color Forecasting Board has described the "it" color being disclosed to the public for 2011 as pale terracotta. She recommends it for flattering skin tones, for providing warmth and capturing sunlight. It is considered a nourishing color, with yellow and



Saturated colors from both sides of the color wheel will make their way with reckless abandon into these otherwise neutral surroundings. Layers of mango, strawberry and grape colors will accessorize with less deliberation and more delight. Water tones of celadon, Mediterranean blue and indigo will cool off otherwise oaked-to-death environments. A raspberry kitchen ceiling, tarragon-toned island, or a lemon yellow feature wall will surprise and ignite energy.

Consumers will be acutely aware of their surroundings and the moods they create. They will honor their favorite belongings by reinventing them and displaying them perfectly. Creativity will be ignited because of economic boundaries, not despite them.

I have to admit that my favorite colorist is the United Kingdom's Tricia Guild, from Designer's Guild. When I inquired how she forecasts trends for her collection, she responded, "I tend to work instinctively, colors used depend on inspiration for the collection. There is a vocabulary of colors that I use, mixing black and white with brighter accents. We don't tend to use forecast trends, I just go with what feels right."

She anticipates new shades of blue, yellows, greens and chartreuse staying strong. In her collections, she layers in color and pattern with a seemingly reckless abandon. How can we all be less inhibited, and more successful at this?

"Trust your instincts. Look around you, and be inspired by Mother Nature. There is nothing like a country garden to inspire you."

I've settled on Vintage Wine for my fingers – as this purplish tone feels right in style for the coming year!

My toes should sport a crazy cool tone like Mayan Heaven. Thank heavens for indulgent spa days, and for forward thinking color experts to refine our choices.

red undertones. "The yellows encourage humor and the reds provoke passion, says Patricia. It is fairly close in coloration to Benjamin Moore's paint #HC52 (2B).

Benjamin Moore also predicts purple to reign in the forecast. "One purple to watch for in 2011 is Benjamin Moore's Vintage Wine," says Sharon Grech, color expert. "It is an anchoring and rich hue with a deep brown base and a hint of smoky violet. Vintage Wine is the perfect foil for the latest wood finishes, leathers, linens and other textiles."

On the cooler side, Michelle Lamb calls a teal blue Mayan Heaven and anticipates evergreens, blue-greens and even mint greens in 2011. A light olive will appear more complex and sophisticated than the limier greens we've enjoyed as of late. These colors can be enjoyed in a casual, lighthearted way, teamed with the chameleon neutrals to ground our enlightened spaces.

The Final Forecast

The year 2011 will be one of renewed creativity and positivity. Designers will be freshening earth-toned homes with lighter, fresher, neutral palettes. Main living areas will surround us with perfectly-selected grey, putties, and sophisticated whites.

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DESIGN

Bold Builder and Designer Team up on Modern Town Home Pair

It may take a village to raise a child, but a local builder and designer believe the collaborative analogy works for raising a home, too. Working together from the creative concept stage all the way through the project produces a coordinated and unique end result. Builders Cam Skoropat and Duane Hill of Lexis Developments and designer Adrienne Zvacek of Studio 2.0 Interior Design Consultants are proud of their baby— a modern, head-turning 4000 square foot semi-detached and distinctly different duo of town homes on Broadway Avenue.

Each Lexis home is a custom design and build. The two Broadway town homes are unlike a traditional duplex where one side mirrors the other. Instead, this project is two distinct homes built side by side. A difficult challenge, Cam says, but Lexis is not about “same old, same old.”

“We’re not into easy,” he explains. “We’re definitely anti-cookie cutter. We’re committed to being different.”

Teaming with the Designer

Lexis went looking for a designer who understood what they try to accomplish with their homes and they found a good fit with Studio 2.0.

“It’s exciting for us as a design studio to get involved



Unlike a typical townhouse, this in-fill lot was developed to have completely unique dwellings on each side rather than the standard identically mirrored floor plan.

because each Lexis project is a challenge. In no way do you just come up with a package and duplicate it,” Adrienne explains. “With Lexis, there are unique challenges but often those make it even better because we have to really think through the details together.”

The Broadway in-fill duplex is large, nearly 2,000 square feet on each side. The build and design team had brainstorming sessions to give shape to the initial concept and met regularly throughout its creation. The team included architectural technologist Crystal Bueckert, Bueckert Home & Cottage Design, whose three-dimensional software provided renderings for immediate feedback to the team.

“An important aspect of designing a home is realizing

that it is a process and one that requires collaboration amongst the home owner, the builder, and the designers,” explains Crystal. “I find that the more time spent hashing out layout ideas and construction possibilities always culminates in a precise design with which everyone is happy.”

“We had a lot of discussion around the location of materials and type of materials, how modern to make it. It’s a tough balance. Nobody wants to scare people off by making it ultra-modern, but we still want to do something different,” says Cam. Team discussions made for a stronger result. “If we’re always in agreement on everything, that means that it’s probably just one person doing all the thinking,” he says. “Working through

different ideas and opinions can really make a project better.”

The team had to consider practical questions like how to construct eye-catching, yet functional features while meeting building codes and following architectural controls like roof pitch and garage placement.

Dual Town Homes with a Difference

Because of the project’s location and compressed yard space, Cam and Adrienne agree that the Broadway town homes appeal to retired or semi-retired couples or young professionals without children. One side has already been sold. All Lexis homes, though, appeal to the homeowner who abhors run-of-the-mill.



Duane Hill and Cam Skoropat (owners of Lexis Developments) and Adrienne Zvacek (of Studio 2.0 Interior Design Consultants), all seen in the photo to the left, worked collaboratively to develop two dynamic and picturesque abodes in Saskatoon's Broadway area.



"Each side has unique features and a different floor plan," explains Adrienne. "One is very open. The other is a bit more private." Elements unique to each side as well as exterior considerations were all decided around the table.

"We're always trying to challenge and push each other to think outside the box," she insists. "But not so far that we've just created our own box. The big thing is to be in constant communication and come up with a cohesive plan that we're all satisfied with yet is something different and unique. That's what we created."

KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER



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The garage is usually the last place that we think of when we look for ways to find more space in the house. In fact, all too often, it's the first place we stash those things that we use frequently enough that it's important to know where they are, but infrequently enough to want them out of the way. Next thing you know, the car stays out on the street because there's no room in the garage, thanks to all the clutter that's accumulated there.

What if, instead, the garage could not only become the best organized room in the home, but also be transformed into a focal point for entertainment? It might sound far-fetched, but it's happening more than you might imagine.

The garage is the biggest room in the house, says Larry Westby, owner of Slide-Lok of Saskatoon.

"Often it isn't as neat as people would like it to be," he says. "Drive around in the spring and summer, when people have their garages open, look inside and you'll see what we mean. There's often boxes on the floor and room for only one car and stuff like that.



Photos: Jessica Storozuk

Arranged and orderly, this garage was transformed into a functional area that even cleverly encases a full refrigerator with a design flare.



"They're usually at the point that they're tired of the way that it's looking or they want to put that biggest room in the house to better use — it shouldn't be a waste," Westby says. "Some people leave it. They think they have to move, get a bigger house. Even a two-car garage is 525 square feet of often-wasted space. We help them get that back. Put in nice flooring, nice carpets, it looks neat, everything put away. It becomes the best recreation room for the whole family.

"We take the biggest room in the house, which is the garage, and we organize it," Westby says.

Starting with permanent, easy-to-clean polyaspartic floor coating to keep dust and grime at bay, then adding cupboards along the end and walls, and possibly adding additional storage at the ceiling, the entire garage can acquire a whole new prominence.

Everything that was lying about gets put away and organized inside cupboards,

wardrobes or specialized storage spaces, says Westby. Recycling bins keep cans, bottles, papers and other recyclables organized.

"Sometimes, people put in big screen TVs, beer keg coolers and stuff like that," Westby says. "There's room for both cars again. If one or two couples come to visit, they may stay in the house, but if there's a group of people coming over for a party or something, let's back the cars out, let's all go to the garage."





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So, where do you start, especially when there's so much stuff to make the task seem overwhelming?

Westby recommends going through everything and tagging it with coloured masking tape. At this stage, you don't even need to move things or sort them into piles. Obviously, the colours you choose will be arbitrary, but be sure to be consistent. For example, put a piece of red tape on your most valuable possessions — the items that you absolutely don't want thrown out. Use yellow, say, to mark all the items that you want to send to auction, donate to charity or otherwise give away for re-use. Green could identify everything that needs to go to the landfill or for recycling.

Once everything's marked, get it out of the garage while you prepare your storage spaces. You could rent a lockable, enclosed trailer for this task. If you don't have the time or strength to do the moving, hire some movers, either independently or from the company that's reorganizing your garage.

If you want help, Westby offers another suggestion.

"Often, a customer will phone in or drop in and say, 'I gotta clean my garage up before you see it,'" he says. "Don't be concerned about that. That's what we help with. We'll help you reorganize it."

"What I would do with a customer, when we're designing their garage, we'd ask them first what do you want to store," Westby says. "Then we'd ask them if they want room for their clothes, for the wardrobes, if they want recycling bins or, golf storage. Some people have hockey equipment and goalie pads and all that kind of stuff. It's all got to be somewhere. We can put cupboards that are capable of having the room for that, plus have the strength and weight to stand up to that."

"If you want to clean it up yourself after I measure it up and give you ideas, you can, or rent a trailer from us that's closed up and with a lock at the back and hitch-locked. It's all closed in from the weather and there's very little chance of theft."

Once everything's cleared out, it takes about three days for the organizers to treat the floor, install the cupboards and have everything moved back in.

DARRELL NOAKES

SPOTLIGHT



Photos:
Copyright Kira Nelson
Photography 2010

This stunning space achieves balance through a layering effect of neutrals with a burst of colour that can easily lend itself to an update with a modification of the key coloured elements.

Consider a Monochromatic Decor Design for a Calm, Timeless and Versatile Look

A design trend that's been around throughout the ages, monochromatic colour schemes are getting a

makeover of their own, thanks to the inspiration of designer Charlene Schumacher of Fresco Interiors. Freshening up this design scheme in a way that doesn't make it lose any of its sleek lines or calming benefits, Schumacher says the key is to add in a little "pop." "Generally with a monochromatic colour scheme," says

Schumacher, "you'll see classic lines of taupes, beiges, greys: really neutral upon neutral colours, where the designer relies upon those colours in different textures to give it that pop. What we've done is injected a little colour placed in many different ways, from furniture to greenery, to accessories and artwork, as a way of taking that monochro-

matic theme and giving it an edgier vibrancy."

To give the room balance and flow, Schumacher suggests offsetting the neutrals colours and tones in a 60/30 split, using the leftover 10% to add complimentary features and pieces that will make the room come alive. "We use a combination of reflective surfaces that



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allow us to give the room some added energy and vibrancy," explains Schumacher. "The reflection dances the colour visually around the space, visually interrupting your eye and providing the illusion of movement, which in turn makes it feel like it's alive."

It's a décor technique that creates a central timeless look that is not only much easier to put together, but also much easier to change.

"What happens when using a monochromatic scheme is that you start with a very neutral pallet," says

Schumacher. "And after you've added the injections of colour, if ever you want to change things up, all you need to do is take away that colour, and you're back to a very neutral scheme. This allows you to change the design easily to reflect whatever colour or pattern you happen to love at the time, without changing the fundamentals of the room itself."

To make this type of design scheme really come together, Schumacher cautions that careful planning must be made when laying out the room to ensure that it has the required balance



Clean, directional lines create a soothing set-up with a vivid use of colour to tie all of the elements together.

necessary to retain the classic lines and feelings of peacefulness monochromatic schemes tend to promote.

And while it is a classic look, it's definitely not one for everyone, admits Schumacher. Acknowledging that there are many different types of designs as there are people, Schumacher says that monochromatic schemes are definitely for those who prefer a less eclectic look.

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INSIDE

Professional Decor Shopping A veteran decorator shares her secrets

"It's super-fun. I love my job," says Chantelle Butterfield, owner-operator of Funktional Space, a Saskatoon-based interior decorating business.

A professional kitchen designer for over five years before starting her current enterprise, her philosophy is that everyone's space is unique, personal and should be attractive and functional.

Chantelle's worked with colour for over 15 years, taking courses in Boston, Calgary, Edmonton and SIAST with continued education on different design styles, including traditional, contemporary and modern.



"As an interior decorator, I source out all types of furnishings and accessories for clients," she says. "I often know where to get those hard-to-find items. My sources are no secret, but I use them on a regular basis and I know if

something is available and the best place to get it."

Chantelle adores shopping for home items for her clients, especially if they are doing it with her. "It should be fast, efficient, fun, organized, well-thought out, with a plan."

She makes it sound so simple. Chantelle will visit a client's home, study the rooms they want to decorate, and with their "lead," make a list of items, not just to buy, but also those they don't want to part with.

"It could be a piece of art, some couches, a vase, some candles. But then again if it's a new build, they'll need cabinetry, flooring, countertops, flooring, window treatments, paint."

Chantelle will either make just a detailed shopping list for her clients, including the best places to find the items, or actually shop with them. Sometimes she does it herself.

"In this business, you have to have an eye for design, know how to edit decor, and be an efficient shopper," she says.

DONA STURMANIS

Chantelle Butterfield's Ten Tips for Buying Home Items

1. Know what is sacred in each room and what has to stay.
2. List what you need and where you want it to go. Collect samples and pictures of what you like.
3. Measure for anything you might need. Take measurements of walls if you're shopping for furniture, the fridge if you're buying cabinets, whole rooms if you're looking for flooring. Take a blueprint shopping with you if possible.
4. Figure out how much money you can spend, so if you find that must-have piece, and it's more than you wanted to pay (and it always is), then you'll know if you need to readjust the budget or cut corners elsewhere.
5. Start big. In renos or new builds, begin with the counter tops, cabinets, flooring, lighting. If you're shopping for accessories start with furniture, art, vases and then the small stuff. This is what adds the personality and colour: candles, throws, flowers. I like to call it these accent items "the fluff and baubles."
6. Plan your shopping route so you're not wasting gas and time. Know where you are going; have addresses and phone numbers.
7. Divide and conquer. If time is limited and there are two of you, travel separately. While one is doing the purchasing, paper work or waiting for everything to be wrapped up, the other can be at the next location making choices to show the other.
8. Note everything: who you talked to, timelines for items that have to be ordered, and deposits.
9. Pick paint last unless you're choosing a neutral or it compliments one of your sacred, must-stay items.
10. Enjoy, have fun and wear sensible shoes!

BACKWORDS

Idylwyld:

The Idyllic Heart of Old Saskatoon

Idylwyld. The word conjures up visions of sylvan beauty – forested pools and gurgling brooks, punctuated by sparkling fountains and elegant pavilions, an arcadian dream dozing in the warmth of a summer afternoon. Once no more than a patch of forest at a sharp bend in the South Saskatchewan River, Saskatoon's Idylwyld neighbourhood is now home to gently-curving boulevards lined with ancient trees and boasting some of the city's most elegant and historic houses. It has been among the choicest real estate in the city and for nearly a century, home to the movers and shakers of Saskatoon's business, academic and political communities.

The name "Idylwyld" is a bit of a mystery. Unlike a great many other streets and neighbourhoods in Saskatoon, there is no clear derivation for this name. In his book, *Saskatoon: A History in Street Names*, historian John Duerkop suggests that

it was chosen because it sounds "relaxed, untouched and pastoral – an ideal retreat for the leisure class!" There is an Idylwyld Island in Ontario, whose name is likely the source of the several other Idylwylds in that province, but there isn't any obvious link between the island in Ontario and the subdivision in Saskatoon. There are a great many homophones: plenty of Idlewyls and

Idylwyls and even an "Idyl Wyld" (a roller rink in Indiana). But our Idylwyld appears to be comparatively rare. (Duerkop could not find another instance of the name, but he didn't have the benefit of Google!)

Although not developed until just before the First World War, Idylwyld is truly the heart of Old Saskatoon. Said to have been a traditional stopping place for the Cree on

their annual spring trek south to the buffalo herds, it was here, in the summer of 1882, that Temperance activist and land agent John Lake and his party camped while scouting the area for a town site for a new agricultural colony to be established here. They called it Minnetonka.

"Minnetonka was our camping place," Lake wrote in his diary, "and the finest we ever had." After a trip to



Flooding in the Idylwyld area in June, 1908.

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Moose Woods to consult with Chief Whitecap about suitable locations, Lake picked the area around his campsite to establish his settlement. The rest, as they say, is history.

Frank Butler, an American who had come north with the Saskatchewan Valley Land Company, bought Idylwyld in 1903 for \$40 an acre. The area was mostly heavy bush, mostly poplar trees, for which Poplar Crescent was named. The streets appear on plans dated as early as 1907, but building there does not appear to have really taken off until the height of the pre-war land boom, in about 1912. By then it was known as "Willoughby's Bluff" after Dr. J.H.C. Willoughby, who had been Butler's partner in the real estate business and acquired control of the property after his death, and was a popular camping spot for Saskatonians trying to escape the heat of summer.

The suggestion – tongue-in-cheek, presumably – has been made that the area was so named because "the men were idle and the women were wild." There does not appear to be hard evidence to support this allegation although one local teamster recalled working Saturday nights in 1912 when he'd ferry roisterers out to nights on the town and back: "Drive them home to Idylwyld... They'd be

singing out loud all the way home, two or three in the morning." So perhaps there is some truth in it.

A Park-like Place

The little park between Poplar and Saskatchewan Crescents has the distinction of being one of the oldest in Saskatoon. It was one of three laid out a century ago by Minnesota-based landscape architects Anthony Morell and Arthur Nichols as part of the "City Beautiful" movement, whose proponents believed that beautification of the urban landscape through such things as the building of formal parks and gardens would help promote a harmonious social order and improve the quality of life of city dwellers. Unlike the other two – Ashworth Holmes and Buena Vista – the Idylwyld Park plan was never implemented, perhaps because, as one Parks Board official suggested, the fact that it was naturally treed meant that it required no further beautification.

In Saskatoon, as in other cities, there was some tension between those who conceived of parks as formal gardens with paths upon which to walk and admire the flowers, and those who liked to get in them and kick a ball around. In Idylwyld, it was actually suggested that neighbourhood children should play in

an open area next to the railway tracks where the freeway is now. But a 1934 petition – which reads like a "who's who" of Saskatoon's high-ranking citizens of the day – makes it clear that neighbourhood

residents were firmly in the parks-as-playgrounds camp. The local children cast their vote on the matter by the simple expedient of tearing down the "No Football" signs whenever they found them.



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Photo: Courtesy Saskatoon Public Library - Local History Room
Saskatchewan Crescent, ca. 1912.

Interestingly, the whole Idylwyld neighbourhood itself very nearly became a park. In 1906, it was one of the areas that the newly-incorporated City of Saskatoon was considering purchasing for park purposes. But Willoughby held out for a price of \$800 an acre – a total of \$46,000 for 36 acres – which was a bit too rich for the city's blood. He must have cursed himself two years later when the river flooded its banks and low-lying sections of Idylwyld found themselves hip-deep in water. But this doesn't appear to have stopped him from eventually bringing it to market and ultimately making a pile of money from it.

The wealth that poured into Saskatoon during the years from 1909-1913 is no where

more clearly evident than in Idylwyld, where "mansions replaced bush or prairie or shacks as wealth made itself manifest. Most often the manifestation included pillars." Those pillars are still there today; the bankers and lawyers, university presidents, real estate men and business tycoons who built Idylwyld built grandly and well. To walk down its curving, elegantly-treed crescents is to slip back into a different century, when Commerce was king and the city echoed morning and night with the saws and hammers of the carpenters building the future in this quiet little bend on the South Saskatchewan River.

JEFF O'BRIEN



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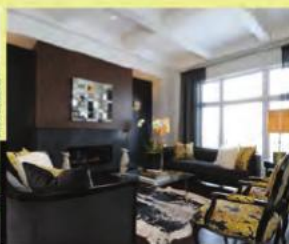


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